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Grammy nominee and musician Steve Green comes to Dordt



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# the Diamond

Dordt College

22 September 2011

Issue 13

## Studying abroad... does it help or hinder?

Kristina Heflin  
Staff Writer

According to a recent study by a group within the University of Georgia system, “students who study abroad have improved academic performance, higher graduation rates, and improved knowledge of cultural practices and context.”

Dordt College offers 30 different off-campus programs. Though the thought of traveling to exotic locales and absorbing another culture through sheer submersion can be inviting to some and daunting to others, many see it as an opportunity to boost one’s education in more ways than one.

Critics of the University of Georgia study say that going abroad could potentially put a student behind in their regular studies, regardless of cultural experiences gained. This is a legitimate worry that often keeps students from trying to fit an off-campus program into their schedules.

In fact, until recently, it was nearly impossible for Dordt engineering and nursing students to participate in these programs. This year, however, Dordt has seen its first engineering student,

Danielle DeBoer, travel overseas without falling behind in classes. She is currently studying in South Korea.

“One of our goals here is to make off campus studies available to all majors,” said Linda Van Wyk, Dordt’s coordinator of off campus programs.

A veteran of international studies herself, Van Wyk agrees that any risk of falling behind in classes should be weighed against the benefits gained by experiencing a different culture.

“I don’t feel like you miss out if you schedule it at the right time,” she said. “We only approve programs with worldviews and academic rigor that meet Dordt’s standards. That way, it’s not competing with your classes, but rather, enhancing them.”

The cultural enhancement gained by traveling abroad is one of the major factors in favor of the programs. As mentioned before, the study among the University of Georgia system found students who went overseas to be more well-rounded than their stateside counterparts.

Erica Lieuwen, a Dordt biology major, participated



During spring 2011 students traveled all over Europe on the SPICE program.

in the Creation Care Study Program (CCSP) in New Zealand.

“The cultural perspective is indescribably valuable,” she said. “The only way to truly evaluate your own culture is to step out of it for a time. By being in another culture, you realize that people do things differently and act differently than what you expect.”

These differences in culture can be a refreshing change for some, but for others, it is more the cause of anxiety than excitement. Much of the worth in study abroad programs rests in the individual students who choose to participate.

“It takes a bit of an adventurous person to head out to a foreign country,” Lieuwen said. “[But] I haven’t heard of anyone who didn’t enjoy their semesters abroad.”

At Dordt, there are certain requirements that each student must meet before they are approved to travel abroad, including recommendations, applications, and interviews for some of the programs.

“A student also has to have flexibility, a willingness to become independent and learn from others, as well as a sense of adventure,” Van Wyk added.

Other considerations must be taken into account

as well, such as financial support and health/safety concerns in less developed parts of the world.

Once all is in order, the experiences gained can be priceless, if one is up for the risk.

Van Wyk concluded that Dordt’s cross cultural programs are “another way for students to delve into the culture of another country. They can get out of a touristy way and into more of the realistic way of life there.”

## Online or offline?

*A look at Dordt’s stance regarding online classes and programs*

Kristin Janssen  
Staff Writer

In a time period so saturated with the latest technologies, Dordt is seemingly following the trend. Dordt campus’ classrooms are outfitted with smartboards, projectors, and other of the latest technological learning tools.

However, while online course programs are proliferating across the continent, Dordt is only in the experimental stage. Besides a Master’s in Education program moving to extensive online instruction, Dordt does not have an established online degree program.

Dordt’s Provost, Erik Hoekstra, shared that one of the aims of learning in a “comprehensive campus community of Christian discipleship” is for

students to grow and change intellectually, spiritually, socially, emotionally, and physically alongside of each other. This is one reason why Dordt has not developed an online degree program.

However, Dordt has been experimenting with various online structures that Hoekstra calls “innovative course delivery methods.” Many of the experiments exist because of course scheduling issues, both with student and/or professor conflicts, while some innovations are driven by instructor expertise available outside of the traditional face-to-face delivery method.

Classes in the nursing program often experience course scheduling issues due to conflicting clinical schedules. Junior nursing major Marissa Rieckhoff said, “A lot of the

nursing majors wish that there were online courses offered for us in our senior year so that we could get into the nursing profession but still finish off our bachelor’s degree underneath Christian advisors.”

Nursing majors are certified as Registered Nurses after the completion of their junior year and therefore, they are able to begin working after their junior year.

One opportunity for an online class has already been created. Nutrition, a course required for all nursing majors, is taught online. Craig Stiemsma, the advisor for the course, only meets with the students a couple times during the semester.

“It is nice to have nutrition online,” Rieckhoff commented. However, nurses like Rieckhoff may benefit from a

semester or full year of online courses. Another course that nursing requires, sociology, is also scheduled to be on-line in the future.

One example being discussed but not currently implemented is simultaneous video conferencing. This technology would allow upper level courses in departments such as philosophy to expand discussion and resources. Since many of these upper level courses are small, Dordt classes would interact with similar courses taught at other colleges. By video conferencing and participating in online discussion with these classes, students from different backgrounds, as well as a higher number of students, would be involved in the same learning process.

In the Business Department,

an E-Marketing course is currently being taught by a Dordt graduate currently working in web analytics for Redbox in Chicago. This hybrid course allows Dordt students to learn first-hand from a professional in the field they are studying.

A final online possibility the college is exploring is the possibility of offering Core 399 in other venues—be it online or simply small groups. Schedule challenges regularly create conflicts for juniors and seniors, but the course profits immensely from students with a wide variety of majors.

“It is not our plan to say that you can live in Seattle, never set foot on campus, and earn a Dordt degree,” said Hoekstra. “However, we do want to be open and explore innovative course delivery methods to enhance our current offerings.”



# News

## Politics on Dordt's campus

*New political studies professor Jeff Taylor hopes to excite Dordt students about politics*



**Kelly Zatlín**  
Editor

Much is happening in politics right now, not only because of the upcoming Iowa presidential caucuses, but also because the political studies department at Dordt has welcomed a new professor.

Dr. Jeff Taylor joined the Dordt College faculty this fall as a professor in political studies, with the goal of exciting more students on Dordt's campus about politics.

"My hopes for this year are to build on the successes of the past, while trying to increase enrollment in classes to attract more political studies majors," said Taylor.

He is also currently the faculty sponsor of the Political Actions Committee at Dordt and is hoping to work with them on getting more students involved in politics on campus.

"My goal there is to let them do their thing but provide assistance and guidance where they

need it," said Taylor. "I'm looking forward to that."

Taylor recognizes that interest in politics among college students is often low to nonexistent, but he has higher expectations for Dordt students.

"The voter turnout between 18 and 20 year-olds is the lowest of any age bracket, so there's widespread ignorance and apathy there," said Taylor. "I'm assuming that Dordt students are at a higher level of interest and knowledge, though. I think things are a little bit elevated, at least on our campus."

Taylor says some recent presidential campaigns have sparked more interest among college students, such as President Barack Obama's campaign, as well as that of Ron Paul.

He feels that since both candidates are running again this year, there will be more energy channeled from the college community in those directions.

Taylor is also hoping to see more political candidates stopping through Sioux Center and even Dordt throughout this year as candidates prepare for

the Iowa Caucuses in January.

"I expect that there will be more candidates coming to Dordt, but I don't know for sure yet," said Taylor. "The Political Action Club is trying to attract the candidates to get here. I'd be surprised if we don't get one or two more appearances."

Emily Rens, political studies major and member of the Political Actions Committee, says that, "PAC this semester is working towards getting presidential candidates to come to Dordt for 'round table' discussions and is working on getting Kristi Vilsack and Steve King [both will be running for representative this coming election cycle] to stop at Dordt."

Because of Sioux County's conservative reputation, Taylor believes this will be a prime stop for Republican presidential hopefuls.

"It's an appealing location

for candidates wanting to reach an audience," said Taylor. "At least for the Republicans, this would be a likely stop sooner or later. If not on campus, somewhere in Sioux Center."

Though Taylor is hoping to see more involvement outside of the classroom, he is also looking forward to teaching politics in the Christian environment that Dordt has to offer, especially after teaching at public institutions.

"To take that Reformed perspective of the idea that as members of the church or as part of God's kingdom, we can be involved in all areas of life including politics, is something that we can help improve upon and transform," said Taylor.

"I'm assuming that Dordt students are at a high level of interest and knowledge, though."

## Students go "independent"

*Starting this year, digital media majors are required to take on an individual study*

**Bryan Visser**  
Staff Writer

Starting with this year's freshmen, digital media majors will be required to undertake an individual studies course, but this semester's students promise to set a good example.

"This year, for the first time, incoming freshman into the digital media program must do an independent study at some point in their four years, normally their junior or senior year," digital media professor Mark Volkers said.

This semester Tim Morgan is doing an animated short of Jeff Smith's graphic novel

"Bone," Zac Edens and Jacob Buss are working on an original screenplay by Edens, and Jason Stuhrenburg is doing a documentary on the damaging effects of pornography.

Volkers explained that these studies, as well as the studies digital media freshmen and future students will undertake, begin with proposals for a project that he approves, supervises, and evaluates at the end, when their works are shown at the public screening.

"I think an independent study in a field like this is very important because generally, you're going to pick a topic that you're really passionate about, something that you feel



Photo by Anna Stadem

strongly about," Volkers said.

"Tailor the study to what you're interested in doing, on a topic you can 'jive' with - something you can engage with through your major (i.e. sexuality through digital media). This is where you see what you can do and conversely, see where you can grow in skill or character," Stuhrenburg said.

Stuhrenburg's documentary began with a theology project he did last semester, and he is now putting that research into a film for which Volkers has high expectations.

"The independent study for Jason has the potential to go much further. I could see

a curriculum being written to accompany this film, a curriculum used by men's bible study groups or small groups around the country--marketed and sold," said Volkers.

Other students are excited for different aspects of the project.

"I always love having that moment where you time a sound effect or music cue at the right moment, accentuating a scene perfectly," said Morgan.

According to Volkers, Smith has already told Morgan that he would like to see his animated short when it is completed.

Edens is preparing his

screenplay on a day in his character's life, while Buss acts as his producer.

Buss explained that his role as producer was to make sure things were finished.

"I'm going to make sure actors are at shoots, get actors together, and get cameras," Buss said.

When asked if they had any advice for students undertaking individual studies, Morgan and Edens responded that preparation was a key point.

"Get planning. Plan, organize, collect knowledge for what you want to do," Morgan said.

"Pre-plan. A lot of preparation helps," Edens said.

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# Alumni weekend traditions and festivities

**Rachel Mulder**  
Staff Writer

Alumni weekend, an annual event on Dordt’s campus, provided two full days of activities that offered food, fun, and fellowship for the young and the old.

The Pops concert, held every year over alumni weekend, and the Steve Green concert on Saturday seemed to be the main attractions.

The BJ Haan was filled with students, parents, and alumni who came to listen to the sounds of the wonderful world of Disney. Not only did the audience hear music from the best of Disney, but the costumes brought to life the many characters that make up our love for Disney. The ice cream social after the

concert also made it worthwhile.

“The concert was great! There were fun costumes and the music was fantastic,” said band member Janna Mulder.

The highlight of the weekend, Christian recording artist Steve Green, brought a musical ending to the alumni events. Last year, comedian Jeff Allen took the stage, joking about the humor in family and marriage, while this year, Green sang family friendly songs.

Despite the chilly weather, Defender fans and alumni came to support their football team. Although they lost 14-37, the Defenders started strong by scoring the team’s only touchdowns in the first half. The



Photo by Ellie Dykstra

halftime show was also something to see. Teams of high school students, college students, and alumni competed at football leapfrog by running and throwing a football down the field. This exciting game resulted in the college students taking the win.

The alumni lacrosse game was a good time as well, with a win by the alumni team.

“It was super low-key so nobody was beating up on anyone else too bad... but I know the alumni won,” said Andrew Deelstra, who participated in the game.

On Friday evening, the annual Distinguished Alumni banquet was held, and this year Marlys (De Witt) Popma, Dr. James Verbrugge, and Rev. John A. Rozeboom were featured.

# New faces, fresh places

*Dordt welcomes new staff and faculty members to its campus*



Dordt’s new faculty and staff

**Alex Updike**  
Staff Writer

In case you haven’t noticed, there are quite a few new faces on campus besides the huge freshmen class. That’s because Dordt’s administration hired 22 new faculty and staff mem-

bers from all over the United States.

From Professor Donald Roth, who moved with his wife from Washington D.C. to teach both criminal justice and business administration, to Dr. Darren Stoub, who came from Florida with his wife and two

children to teach Chemistry, to Jon De Groot, who came from Sioux Falls to take over an administrative position in the campus ministries department, Dordt has shown its willingness to grow and improve as an academic institution.

According to Provost Erik

Hoekstra, there were multiple reasons for the myriad of new hires on campus. Departments such as agriculture, engineering, and nursing are growing ever year, causing a need for expansion.

Other departments simply needed replacements due to retirements and other personnel changes, such as engineering, political studies, and even volleyball.

One of the more interesting hires, however, came in the economic department, where Dordt recently filled a position that had previously been vacant for an entire year with the hire of Dr. Jan van Vliet.

“As you can tell,” Provost Hoekstra said, “we’ll only hire when we believe that we have a person who is a committed Christian, who is committed to teach and lead from a Reformed world-view, and who shows promise for excellence

in their work.”

Dordt is growing, both in student enrollment and in staff and faculty.

“We are one of the colleges that continues to grow and these hires all support our commitment to teaching excellence and to carry out our mission of equipping our students and the broader community to work for Christ-centered renewal,” Hoekstra said.

“If we hire only those types of folks, we believe our students will thrive and our programs will grow----both in size and in quality.”

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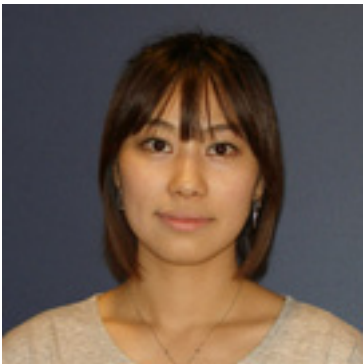


# Features

## Voices from around the world

Danielle Richards  
Staff Writer

*A look at the transition international students face when coming to Dordt*



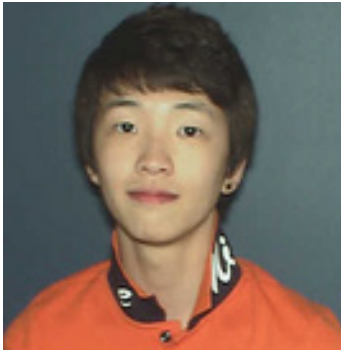
**In Ae Seo**  
**Sophomore**

In Ae Seo, a sophomore from South Korea remembered that “it was a little bit hard at first because I am from a totally different background than students here. I couldn’t understand when the students talked about their high schools or their idiomatic and cultural jokes. That made me feel like I was left out sometime. But later I found that it takes time to understand and learn culture, and I should be a little more patient.”

“As for me, this Dordt experience has grown me a lot. At first, I had a hard time with many new, unfamiliar things that made me lonely and helpless. Going through this phase, I could hold God’s hands tighter and only hope for the help from God because there was nothing I could handle by myself,” In Ae Seo said.

Professors talking gibberish. A roommate who stares at you while you talk on the phone to your family. Food without flavor. Textbooks with an impossible vocabulary. Oh, and the expectation to excel at one of the best colleges in the Midwest. Almost every student experiences these situations at some point in their college career, but for Dordt’s international students, the assimilation process can be far more challenging. International students must adjust to drastic weather changes and cultural differences in a matter of days before starting classes in what is often a second language. Despite these difficulties, the number of international students is on the rise at Dordt. This semester 67 students from 20 countries made the decision to attend Dordt, said Linda Van Wyk, the Coordinator of International Studies. This number is up by 20 since last year, and it represents a fluctuating growth in the program. This number is growing “because of an institutional commitment to building a globally engaged campus,” Van Wyk said. “Dordt’s authentic Christian vision, excellent faculty, and vibrant community are a draw for many international students. Though our international students may come from more cosmopolitan areas than Sioux Center, this is a place that can become a home away from home for them.” But students have their own reasons for coming to Dordt.

The life lessons shared by these students not only apply to the lives of national and international student alike, but they speak of the continued grace of God that holds the campus together in faith.



**John Shin**  
**Freshman**

“I found some difficulty with the food here, and I’m still having difficulty now,” said John Shin of South Korea.

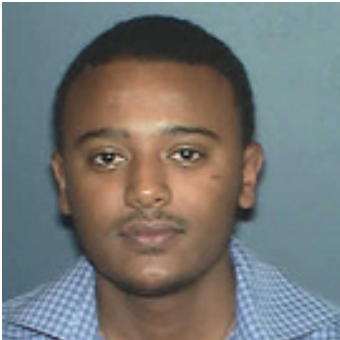
Not every transition was as difficult as expected, according to John Shin. “Everybody here is really kind and friendly. And I don’t see any racism around here,” he said.



**Giovanna Romero Sarubbi**  
**Sophomore**

“I choose Dordt because of the mission they have. I remember the first thing that I read on their web page was ‘Find your place in God’s world’, and that was the type of college that I was looking for. One that can help me growth in my faith and in which I could serve the Lord. Also their academic and sports program were very interesting to me. I heard about it through a friend,” said Giovanna Romero Sarubbi, a second year student from Paraguay.

“Don’t worry if at the beginning things seem to be hard. You don’t know how to do all the homework you get, and people seem to not understand what you are saying or maybe even doing- it is all a process. Don’t be afraid of talking to new people. Don’t be afraid of sharing your culture. Don’t be afraid of making mistakes, because it is through them that you learn.... Remember that God brought you here with a purpose, and that He won’t ever give you something that He knows that you will not be able to do,” Giovanna Romero Sarubbi said.



**Yebeman Asseged**  
**Freshman**

“I have learned that, in whatever situation you are in, God is always with you,” freshman Yebeman Asseged of Ethiopia said.

**Wendy Gomez Matamoros**  
**Senior**



“I went to an international school called Nicaragua Christian Academy, and the director and many teachers are Dordt graduates. I was interested in education and my teachers recommended Dordt,” said Wendy Gomez Matamoros, a fourth year student from Nicaragua “No one in my school wanted to go to Dordt because it was where our teachers went, and it was in Iowa; but I decided to try it out. God opened doors, and hence, here I am.”

“Interacting with people was something that took me a while to adjust. I am used to hugs and kisses when greeting and when saying goodbye instead of a handshake, high five, or nod. In hispanic culture, we honestly don’t have much of a personal space. People here do, which I respect and no longer take offense in,” Wendy Gomez Matamoros said.



Senioritis



Adrian Hielema  
Columnist

I don't know how it is for the rest of you, but for me, starting school again is sort of like bringing in the New Year: awesome partying and healthy resolutions turn into sober boredom and general acceptance of failure. The planner that I faithfully wrote in for the first week is now being used to prop up the Playstation, and the college-ruled notebooks I purchased for note-taking now contain mostly doodles of different pieces of food waging war on each other. In a sense, life goes on, much as it has for the past three years.

So am I the best person to be giving advice of any sort? Absolutely not. Do I care? Absolutely not. The show must go on. Here, in continuation of last week, are some more knowledge nuggets for you to chew on.

Life-changing Factoid #3: Learn how to procrastinate well.

Notice how I didn't say "Learn how not to procrastinate." Being completely productive is like reaching nirvana: tempting, but ultimately unattainable unless you have the mental fortitude of a Buddhist monk. So, since we both know you're destined to procrastinate, let's take this time to learn how to do it effectively. Don't just sit on the couch; sit on the couch and craft a piece of modern art out of lint and human hair. Sit on the couch and see if you can compose a love poem using only the words on the Coke bottle next to you (good luck making sodium benzoate sound sexy).

Look, there's procrastination, and then there's creative re-prioritization. The first one is bad for your study habits, the second one – well, the second one is pretty bad too, but you'll probably feel less guilty about it.

Life-changing Factoid #4: Get to know your professors.

No, this is not going to be some schmaltzy message about how your professors are people too. They're not. Get to know you're professors in order to find their weaknesses. For example: professors (for the most part) teach subjects that they're experts in. This usually means they've, at some point, published something on the subject they're teaching you. Find what they published, read it, and use their own arguments in their class.

But wait, you say, aren't you just repeating back what your professor said and not actually learning anything?

Yes. Welcome to college.

A Tree & Its Roots

Did you know that some tree's roots are the same size as the actual tree itself? So, if a tree is 10 feet tall, its roots go 10 feet deep. 100 feet tall, 100 feet deep. You get the idea. Well, going off that, I learned a pretty neat analogy this summer that I'd like to share with you.

Tree #1- You're not feeling over-stressed or anything. You're actually probably feeling pretty content with your life. You're pretty busy, but at least you go on your annual Serve trip and help out in the church nursery. Those are your branches. That's what others see of you. But now let's take a look at your root system. You go to church on Sunday, you try to catch some chapel or Praise & Worship at least every once in a while, and you try to read a quick devotional every night. See a correlation? Small root system, small tree.

Tree #2- You've read the Bible and other books about being "radical", so you're stretching yourself as much as possible to do great things for Christ. You try to get involved in as



Danae Geels  
Columnist

many things as possible. You really do enjoy loving God through loving others, but sometimes, you wonder if you're doing something wrong. Is life always going to be this stressful, or am I eventually going to get it figured out and settle down? The disciples never had any time to rest, did they? Well, now let's look at the root system. You're not really spending a whole lot of quality time with just you and God because you're so busy doing stuff for Him. You know there's importance in daily prayer and Bible times, but maybe sometimes you find yourself rationalizing that as long as you're doing "Christian" things, that counts as your God-time

for the day.

Tree #3- Small tree, big root system. You don't have a whole lot of extra stuff goin' on right now. You're feeling pretty good about maintaining academics, extracurricular, and other relationships, but because your root system is so deep in God's love, you find yourself consistently wishing there was more you could do. You know that God has filled you with His love and power to do great things in His name, but you can't seem to find any open doors.

Can you all guess what the final tree would look like? Firmly rooted in God's love, spending quality and consistent time with Him, and as a result, finding you have even more time and desire to be like Jesus to others. As you spend more time with Him, He gives you more of His heart and His desire to do great things for His kingdom above other things. I know what tree I'd like to be. How about you? Let's try praying the words of Paul in Ephesians 3:16-20. Look it up and see where it takes us.

My Grandfather's Country...

When you think about your grandparents, do you really think about the sacrifices their generation made? Do you think about the countless moments in which they put their lives and families on the line? My grandparents, like many of yours, were willing to sacrifice everything in order to fight for true justice. Some of our grandparents hid Jews, many fought in wars, and many risked everything they had to better their families' lives and may have even sacrificed their own lives in order to stand against injustice.

There is much to learn from their actions; sadly, our generation has rarely taken the time to listen or learn. Yes, the circumstances and situations may be different, but the courage and honor is the same: courage to look death in the face and say, "I dare you"; honor to call those you do not even know, brothers and sisters. Is that the same today? Would we be willing to risk everything in order to save an innocent life?

If, heaven forbid, an innocent ethnic group began to be persecuted, would we be the ones to stand up? If the His-



Hank Houtman  
Columnist

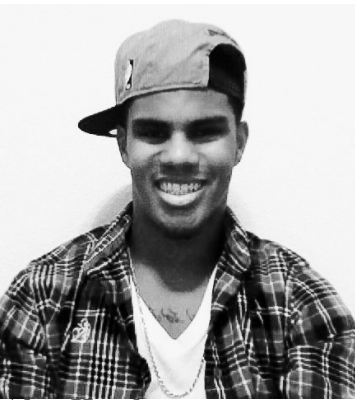
panic right next door is getting mocked or pushed around by others because of his or her ethnicity, would we try to stop it or would we join in the laughter? If the Middle Eastern man is being mocked because of his country of origin, would you stand up next to him and say, "Brother, sister, we are in this together"? If not, why? Do you really think the past generations before us took the time to ask if they were Christian or would appreciate the help? No. They didn't care because they stood for something higher than their own comfort. They did not bother to find out their personal beliefs or their political views. They stepped up when others

would turn away.

It seems that we as Christians have forgotten our role as Christian Americans. How many times have we said, "They don't deserve to be in America."? Do you deserve to be in America? Who are we to say people deserve one thing or another?

Now, I want to be clear. I am not advocating for any side of the topic of Immigration, but nonetheless, what kind of an example are we setting? We sit at our table and discuss how we need to be examples to the world of how we need to show God's love to a lost generation. Are we really doing that? Would our grandparents be proud of our actions, laughter, jokes, and ridicule? I myself have forgotten my place and the fact that we deserve NOTHING. We need to remember our place as Christian Americans. What's our priority in life? Would you be willing to hide a person in your wall, even if a gun was held against your head asking if anyone was there? Do we have courage and honor? Are you living the legacy of your grandparents' courage?

Wrestling for a Blessing?



Alex Henderson  
Columnist

School is in high gear, everything going as planned, eh? Maybe? Maybe not?

We all wrestle to keep the balance in our lives. Don't worry, good things await those who wait--long enough.

Ladies, I'm sorry. I'm no Jack Johnson, so "Sitting, Waiting, Wishing" doesn't apply here. Not a chance.

But patience is a talent that we all should develop further. Think about your level of patience--now think of it as a talent.

You've all heard the saying, "A positive outlook yields a positive outcome," although maybe not exactly that way. Amidst the madness of your busy life, you still have some control.

Buckle down, make a plan, put your plan in action, and then, take the time to reflect on what you can do better. We all can do better.

After you have wrestled with the things that once seemed impossible, don't hesitate to take the lead and help others out.

Trust me: there is light at the end of the tunnel. I have wrestled throughout my college career to keep a balance between work and play.

The daily tussle to be on time when my motivation runs low is a simple task that tests my discipline continuously. This might sound crazy, but I do find comfort in staying busy.

I found myself battling my ego, wondering, "Was I good enough?"

Learning to wrestle through the things you simply don't like to do to reach the things you wish for is something you'll have to sort out on your own.

Grab a hold of all things, wrestle through them, and pin them down. I wish you luck.

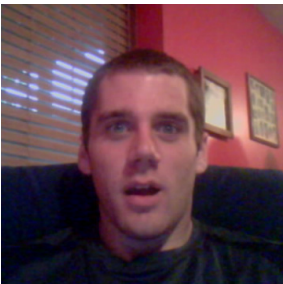
Until next time, remember to say, "Please and Thank You." Peace and Blessings.



# Harmy's Army

(of thoughts)

Jordan Harmelink  
Staff Writer



After some begging and pleading, I was finally given my own column. This is the sports page, and I have been dubbed the official “sports guy” for this paper, so I suppose I should write something sports related.

For a brief instant, I thought I would pull a Peter Griffin and present “What grinds my gears,” in the world of sports particularly. Maybe I’ll save that one for later.

For my first column, I’ll stick to something simple.

I love fall. It is probably my favorite season. Why? Seeing friends that I haven’t seen in three months is cool. I’d be lying if I said I didn’t miss Professor Kuiper’s sweaters. Or maybe it’s because I enjoy seeing students, particularly those from the West coast, whip out their winter jackets when the temperature outside hits 60 degrees.

But I digress...

A big contributor as to why fall is my favorite season is that this is the best time of year in the world of sports, both at the collegiate and professional levels.

First, let’s look at athletics within our campus: the football team is off to a respectable start. Both the men’s and women’s soccer teams have had their share of exciting matches. It seems like you can’t cruise down 7th street without trying to avoid the cross country runners. Getting a tee time at the Ridge is impossible at this time of year because of the golf team. Did I mention the Blades will be hitting the ice soon? Awesome.

In the world of sports outside of our cozy campus, it is impossible to think about October and not think about postseason baseball. Some teams have clinched their respective divisions, while some are racing just to grab a wild card spot--love it. The NFL season has finally started up, and two weeks into the season, we’re already seeing more scoring than we ever have with the league becoming pass-happy. College football is in full swing, and before you know it, college basketball will be here. How could this time of year get any better?

# Sports

## Lacrosse team plays alumni

Jordan Harmelink  
Staff Writer

With all of the alumni weekend festivities taking place this past weekend, the lacrosse team continued its tradition of hosting the annual alumni game, pitting current team members against past players.

A total of nine alumni varying from graduating classes of 2001 to 2010 made it to the game. The founder of Dordt lacrosse, a 2001 graduate of Dordt College, Matt Nuiver also made the trip.

“It can be hard to get guys to come out for this game because when they graduate from Dordt, they scatter around the country,” Sowers head coach Paul Hoogendoorn said.

The game featured a few sibling rivalries as well. Junior Jeremy Van Dam suited up against his older brother

Josh. I myself got to suit up against my older brother as well, Josh Harmelink.

After only a few weeks of practice with full gear, the Sowers were eager to get out on the field and gain some valuable game experience.

After a scoreless first quarter, Nuiver took advantage of a defensive miscue by the Sower defense to score a goal for the alumni. Hoogendoorn would score two of his three goals in the contest in the second quarter. Assistant coach Greg Johnson suited up for the Sowers and scored a goal in the same frame to make the contest a 3-1 affair at the midway point.

Senior Tyler Buys and freshman Nate Weigel each scored a goal in the second half to give the Sowers a total of three goals for the contest. Unfortunately, the



young Sowers squad was not able to keep up with alumni as they were defeated 7-3.

“This game showed that we have things to work on,” junior defensive man Jordan Shaffer said. “I have no doubt we’ll fix it and be ready to roll for our final

fall game. Then it’ll be time to work for when it counts -- spring ball.”

At press deadline the Sowers were planning on hosting another game during Parent’s Weekend, October 22. The opponent is yet to be determined.

## Ask an Athlete

Shanna Braunschweig  
Staff Writer

For round two of “Ask an Athlete,” I decided to interview a female with personality and spunk. Although she did not have a concussion and we were not drinking smoothies from 55th during the time of the interview, she still gave witty answers that kept us laughing for quite some time. Her sense of humor is all-natural.

What is your full name?

“Jessica Noelle Jelsema.”

Where are you from?

“Hudsonville, MI, where the other Unity School is.”

What sport do you play, and what is the most rewarding part of the game?

“I play women’s basketball. Rewarding part of the game...I would definitely say meeting my teammates, just working as a team.”

Were you a baller from birth?

“Well, I did get my first pair of Nikes on the day I was born, so I think it started there, when I came out of the womb. I started playing in kindergarten, though.”

Have you ever received a technical?

“I have not. One of these days I’m going to, though. We could make up some sweet story though, about a girl who thought she had cooler shoes than I did. I actually did get one in high school, but that was for reaching over the line so that was really stupid. I’ll probably get one when I’m a super senior.”

What made you come to the fields of Iowa for college?

“The good ol’ fields of opportunity. First of all, I love the campus atmosphere, and the people here are really outgoing. I felt this was where God was leading me, even though I hate winter, so I don’t know why I’m not in California.”

If you could marry anyone in the world right now, who would it be?

“Anybody right now...I would definitely say Mr. Kirk



Cousins, the quarterback for Michigan State. I sleep in his jersey every night. Well, I should because Jaimie Kok steals it all the time!” (She wore her special shirt in honor of the occasion. Just letting her MR know that she plans to be a trophy wife).

What is your life’s motto?

“I would say ‘Life’s a garden, dig it.’ That’s definitely one of my top ones. ‘Sometimes classy, always sassy’ is another one of my mottos. People can borrow those, feel free.”

Who do you look up to?

“My Grandpa Klyn. He collects newspapers whenever any of us kids are in the newspaper, and he frames it. He is the most generous man I have ever met. He’d do anything for anybody. He is my hero in life, for sure.”

What is your favorite food?

“Mashed potatoes. NOT from the commons either--those are fake.”

When you were little, what did you want to be when you grew up?

“Sea World Instructor. (Or an ambulance driver.) Swimming with dolphins. Shamu would be bad to the bone. I haven’t given up on that one actually. If I can’t be a trophy wife, then I’ll probably do that. I thought an ambulance driver would be pretty cool because I always wanted to follow them when I was little, but my mom was

always like, ‘Nope, gotta go’.”

How many shoes do you have?

“Oh...if my mom and dad are reading this, than only one pair so they’ll buy me more. Here at Dordt, I only brought a couple pairs. I don’t want the fields of opportunity to ruin em’. In all, I easily have at least about 47. Always Nikes. Just do it baby, just buy the pair of shoes.”

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would it be?

“Australia. That or Africa. I’d love to go snorkeling and surfing! Pull a little Bethany Hamilton.”

Do you know any good “knock-knock” jokes? (Because Matt Postmus did not.)

“Okay here we go: knock knock, and you go who’s there. Never mind it’s not a knock-knock joke. Man! It’s actually, what does baby corn say to momma corn? Where’s popcorn. It’s a shout out to the corn people!”

Edward or Jacob?

“I HATE Twilight. No me gusta nada. Out of pity’s sake, I would say Jacob because that’s my really good friend’s first cousin, Taylor Lautner. He is from Hudsonville, Michigan!” (Jessica was hoping I was asking about “The Lion King” coming out this weekend in 3-D!)

Do you sleep with a teddy bear?

“A Hello Kitty from Build a Bear and a giraffe named Nike High-tops. My dad got it for me before I left for Dordt, as a freshie.”

What is the best prank you have ever pulled off?

“Oh, we filled over 667 cups full of water and set them up in my P.E teacher’s office! We snuck in. It took us a good 45 minutes to set it up. That would be the epitome of my pranks, though I’ve done quite a few of them.”

Have you ever beat up a girl on the court?

“No, but my biggest pet peeve on the court is girls

who like to pull on my jersey and claw you. It’s like get declawed and get a new attitude. My biggest pet peeve in life is Iowa drivers. It’s like get your horse and buggy off the road.”

When is your bedtime on the average night? Are you a night owl or an early riser?

“In the summer, I am definitely a night owl, but my roommate right now has mono. Her name is Rachel VanKempmen. She goes to bed around 11, so I try to go to bed shortly after to get some beauty sleep in. And I have all 8 o’clock classes, so that doesn’t help either.”

What sport do you think is lacking the most excitement?

“Well, I don’t want to offend anybody first of all. But for me, the most boring sport would have to be golf. If I want to fall asleep, I’ll turn on golf.”

What do you do after draining a big three-pointer?

“For me, I am usually not the one draining the three pointers, so usually I’m cheering for my friends. But when I do make one, on the inside, I’m like waazzup, but on the outside I keep my cool, composure.”

Why do you want to be a P.E. teacher? (And not a Sea World instructor?!)

“I love seeing people develop. You really get to see how much people grow, especially in coaching. And you can really emphasize God’s love and plant a seed in the kids. I would love to teach in a public school where I could make a big difference. So many kids just need a hug every morning. A P.E. teacher is one of the teachers kids come up to the most to talk to about their problems, so I’d love that.”

If you don’t already know Jessica, I would highly encourage you to get to know her! She is the “bom.com.” And yes, I borrowed that quote from her too.



# Arts and Entertainment

## Grammy nominee Steve Green held concert at Dordt

**Justin Pastoor**  
Staff Writer

Dordt College and the Sioux Center community was graced by the presence of legendary Christian recording artist, Steve Green on September 17. The four-time Grammy nominee and seven-time Dove Award winner brought some of his best and most famous songs to the B.J. Auditorium.

Green played 13 of his most well-known songs at the concert. The set up was simple: a stage, a man, and a guitar. Some songs included or featured piano, while other songs also included a chorus made up of eleven people. Some songs that he played included “A Mighty Fortress is Our God,” “In Christ Alone,” and “How Can I Keep From Singing Your Praise.”

Green has been active

in the music industry since the release of his first album back in 1984. In these 27 years since then, he has been able to sell three million albums worldwide through 33 studio albums between his normal work, children’s projects, and Spanish-language albums. Thirteen of his songs have reached No. 1.

His ministry has been the same since Steve Green Ministry’s beginnings: “to give rational, compelling and clear instructions into essential elements of Christianity.”

Through Green’s music, his goal is to give a recount of the gospel telling of the Biblical account of creation, the fall of man, the redemption through Christ’s death, and the new creation that is to come.

This gospel sets Jesus Christ above as the living



life whom we need to place our trust in --a living Savior, Master, Life, and Hope. Through his music, Green desires people to be awakened to God, responding to the call that the Lord has made.

Green’s ministry, working with his brother, has

made steps over the past few years to move towards more international ministry work. Steps have already been taken towards this movement as tours have been made in Canada, Europe, Brazil, and various places in the Caribbean.

Green looks to continue

his ministry for many years to come.

“There are more songs to record, more people who need to hear God’s truth and more segments of our culture who need to be redeemed for God’s glory.”

## “Wonderful World of Disney”

**Hannah Rodgers**  
Staff Writer



From the first note to the last, the audience at the pops concert was swept away on a Disney journey through all of the classics from the unforgettable Mary Poppins to the stormy seas of Pirates of the Caribbean.

The Dordt band and orchestra played songs from the wonderful world of Disney in the BJ Haan Auditorium on Friday, September 16.

The musicians brought all the characters to life with costumes ranging from Aladdin to Fantasia. Even some little kids in the audience came dressed up to support them.

The hosts of the show, Matt Wiersma and Alex Updike, were fun, quirky comic reliefs between songs and connected well with the audience.

An interesting twist in the night was the fake competition between both the band and orchestra with who could play the Disney songs better. This really kept the audience engaged and excited during the show.

Conductor Brad Miedema said he thought it went very well and the students did a wonderful job. “I’m so thankful for all the Dordt support the band and the orchestra receives every year,” said Miedema.

Audience member and alumni Sheryl Stam enjoyed the concert. “The music department has always been outstanding,” said Stam. “I like that the conductor exposes them to different styles. They seem to be able to have a really good balance of musical styles.”

## Digital Media crosses borders

### *Students plan film trip to poverty stricken areas in Mexico*

**Hannah DeVries**  
Staff Writer

Ten students from the Digital Media Department are traveling to Mexico over Christmas break to capture life in the city slums.

Professor Mark Volkers, Digital Media Production Instructor and professor of the Advanced Film/Video Production class has been hired by Christian Reformed World Missions to produce a film showing life in the less-wealthy cities of Mexico and the work CRWM has been doing there. A few of the cities he and his students will be traveling to are Tiawanna, Cuidad Juarez, Mexico City, Guadalajara, and Yucatan Peninsula.

The documentary itself is called “The Fourth World,” and its focus is global poverty. The goal is to show what life is like in the slums of Mexico. The students themselves will have a great influence in the making of the documentary.

“I look at this as a service project,” said Volkers. “But we’re not slinging paint, we’re slinging cameras. It’s an opportunity to expand our skills but also

to expand the kingdom.”

“I’m definitely hoping to greatly expand my own filming experience through this trip, especially when it comes to documentary filming and filming for a major production,” said Digital Media Major, Jayson Korthuis. “I think the trip will be very beneficial in that way.”

This great opportunity to experience a new culture was not lost on sophomore Nate Ritschard. “I am super stoked,” he said. “Mexico is such an interesting place, I am really excited to see what kind of stories we will find and the pictures and images that we will tell them with.”

“Basically we will be conducting interviews of locals, along with filming the general environment and culture of the cities we are based in,” said Korthuis. “I’m hoping that we are able to get our message across while also developing a broader look at the culture and life in Mexico.”

A trip like this is “a thousand times better than a tourist trip,” Volkers said. “Instantly [you’re] brought deep inside a city a tourist will never see.” Students will be spending time with people their age living on a dollar a day.

“You can’t come away from a situation like this unchanged,” Volkers said.

The film will be shown in Christian Reformed churches all over the United States and Canada. “It’s important to have visual aids to make CRC presentations professional,” said Volkers. Another reason to have videos for such presentations is to “make it a more personal approach.” When people are able to see real people from these cities, they are more likely to make donations to help, said Volkers.

Past trips have been to locations such as Kenya and Guatemala, each with the same mission. Looking ahead, Volkers said, “There’s a million other places to go...Ciara Leon, China,” said Volkers. “It’s kind of a rotating cycle... next time it might be Nigeria.”

“I find that every time I get to travel abroad, I learn so much about the world, God, and myself.” Ritschard said. “Basically, it’s gonna be awesome!”



# Amusements

## What if...

A humorous look at the many “what ifs” throughout history



By Alex Updike

Ok, I underestimated the difficulty of writing a column. I mean EVERY issue . . . come one, who can do that?! The first issue was easy, just a quick introduction and a fairly obvious “what if.” But now I actually have to think of a historical “what if?” I’m a Psychology and Criminal Justice major for cryin’ out loud! All I do for the first one is think about why the rest of you are so weird, and the second one is . . . well . . . criminal justice! But I digress. I am taking a Fessler course this semester, so maybe - just maybe - I can come up with something . . . VIOLA!

What if, and stick with me here, the South had won the Civil War. Now, I know what y’all (because that’s how we would have to talk now) are thinking: “But Alex, everyone always talks about that ‘what if.’” Yes, but they don’t talk about what really needs to be said, that is, the gravest danger that could have befallen the United States: Texas housing our capital and becoming the source of everything that would be the United States of ‘Merica (insert low pitched hillbilly accent). Think about it for a second. Imagine that you are General Robert E. Lee and you have just won the Civil War. The obvious choice for the hub of your new country is Texas because it’s huge! Plus, you could start exploiting Mexico for cheap labor right away, since the south was into that sort of thing - kind of sketchy if you ask me. But what would Texas leading forth our great country progress to in the following years?

First, our state bird would have never been the bald eagle. People in Texas hate beautiful, majestic things; they’re too classy. In all honesty, the state

bird would have probably been a buzzard. Now, at first that doesn’t seem like such a big deal, but what is one of the first things one thinks of when thinking about the United States and our gobs of freedom? That’s right, a big ol’ bald eagle! Without that bad boy representing us, we just aren’t as intimidating to other countries, and the Middle East probably would have attacked and taken us over by now since our military would only have consisted of overweight men wearing wife-beaters and carrying 12-gauge shotguns. This leads nicely into my next point.

High blood pressure. Approximately 80% of a typical Texas diet is fried, and I’m pretty sure that’s a low estimate. With Texas leading the way during crucial development of the U.S., this high fat diet would have been a killer . . . literally. The Wright Brothers die of a heart attack before ever dreaming of inventing flight and Texas’ leading scientists (little oxymoron for you there) spend the next 50 years trying to figure out how to make a train go choo-choo. Flight doesn’t get invented until the 1970’s, and by then, everyone is so overweight from eating fried everything that they all have to buy two seats to accommodate their “largeness.” Airplane companies are forced to shut down due to bankruptcy because they can only fill half of every flight, and anyone who attends college and lives more than 200 miles away can never go home for holidays. Family structures break down completely, and the world deteriorates into what can only be described as Gears of War on steroids.

Finally, let’s talk about what the real bur in our collective saddles would be. Yes, I’m talking about accents, and unless you’re Carrie Underwood, don’t try telling me that the southern accent is cute; however, if you are Carrie Underwood, I live in SV304. Have you ever talked to anyone with a southern accent for more than 10 minutes? If you aren’t cringing right now, then you probably haven’t. The real problem, however, manifests itself many years after the Civil War. As more and more people develop drawls, our speech becomes drawlier

and drawlier, until one day, our speech is so incomprehensible that we ‘Merican citizens are the only ones who can understand each other. Foreign relations break down completely, and we become the laughing stock of the international community. We are forced to sit in the back during the G8 summit, and nobody takes us seriously because they can’t understand what the heck we’re saying. Let your mind wander from here; I don’t even want to fathom the possibilities

So there you have it. Another “what if” that we can thank God did not happen. I don’t know what you are going to do with your newly appreciated Northness, but as for me, I’m going to sit back, eat a salad, and have an intelligible conversation with someone. Man it feels good to be an American!

## Feature Photo



This photo was taken of the Andy Warhol Exhibit at the Washington Pavilion in Sioux Falls. A group of approx. 15 Dordt art students took a road trip to the exhibit and enjoyed the inspiring display of some of Warhol’s greatest iconic work. One room, titled “Silver Clouds,” consisted of large silver balloons filled with helium. It allowed the viewers to interact with the art on a unique level. The tour guide was so kind as to allow Aanna Stadem to snap “only one picture” as a group of kids, entranced by the balloons, experienced the display.

## \*Cough Cough\*

Adam McDonald  
Editor

(Spoiler alert! If you haven’t seen Contagion, but wish to watch it, read no further).

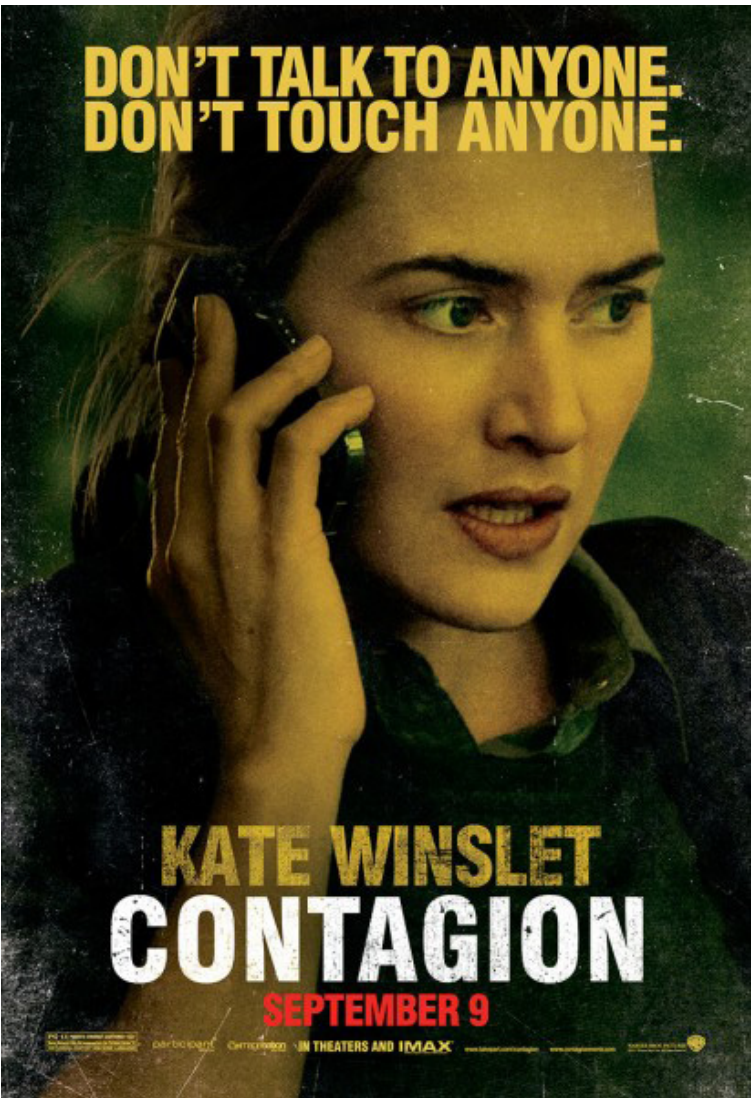
Cover your mouth. Grab the hand sanitizer. Disinfect the countertops. It’s coming. The Contagion. However, as contagious as this disease may be, no matter how hard you try, this movie just can’t deliver enough anti-boring plot antibodies to save you from wasting your time and money.

Released in theaters earlier this month, Contagion follows the lives of various individuals and their stories as humanity focuses on combating a new and deadly virus. The disease is spreading at an impossible rate; humanity finds itself on the brink of extermination if a cure is not found.

For a movie starring Matt Damon, Laurence Fishburne, Gwyneth Paltrow, and Jude Law, one would expect a phenomenal movie. You should expect to be wrong.

The acting is superb. With an A-list cast like this, how can the acting possibly be subpar? It’s not. It’s the plot that’s the problem. There are no twists. There is nothing to make you think. It’s a very dry and very bland plot. A plot that is overdone. Here is a condensed version of the plot: A virus shows up. No one knows how to stop it. Show people’s lives in a slow and far-too-detailed manner for two hours. Roll credits. No conflict other than let’s stop the virus.

The movie starts on Day 2 of the infection, making you wonder throughout the entire film where and how the infection came to be. Numerous possibilities of the virus’s creation are a possibility. Did a country engineer it? Was it a genetic mutation in humans? How could something so deadly



be created?

Pigs. That’s right. Pigs. The virus was the freak interaction between a fruit bat and a pig. A fruit bat drops a piece of fruit. A pig eats the fruit. Boom! Virus. The pig is then killed and fed to Gwyneth Paltrow. She contracts the virus and unknowingly spreads it to humanity.

Perhaps if a dark branch of a country’s government had created the virus, it would have been more entertaining. Now, I’m not saying creating a virus this way isn’t realistic. It is, and that’s the problem. I don’t go to the movies to watch a bland situation sprinkled with mediocrity just to see what MAY happen if a pig

eats a bad piece of fruit. I go to watch character development, a complicated plot, and an emotionally satisfying ending.

On a scale of one to five, I give this movie two stars. Acting =good. Plot=lacking in creativity and a spark. Nothing makes this film stand out among the rest of the films playing next door. If you have seen this movie, take two aspirin and call me in the morning.



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